

Church Members (As of 10/29/15)

Betty Alwran, Edna Baugess, Chuck & Bev Bellew, June Biggs, Patsy Bowers, Alice Carey, Margaret Causby, Nelson Causby, Tony Causby, Miriam Connelly, Sharon Cossey, Tom & Vonnie Corley, Sis Erwin, Marinetta Fisher, Norma Gibbs, Mildred Hallyburton, Floye Hood, Diane Hubbard, Thelma Isenhour, Janet Jehnzen, Lucy Maud Kibler, Jack & Lena Kirksey, Fletcher Nelson, Jr., Doshia Newton, Alice Paisley, Frank Patton, Linda Patton, Sam Rosebrock, Michael Scott, Larry Simpson, Don Smith, Betty Smith, Helen Smith, Josie Speas, Steve Sudderth, Bib Talton, Anne Thompson (Sanford), Bob Townsend.

Nellie Adams (mother of Rahn Adams), Joanne Arnone (sister-in-law of Wendi Arnone), Wendi Arnone (daughter of Janet Jehnzen), Jim & Cleo Brown (parents of Laura Scoggins), Burke Hospice & Palliative Care, Bill Davis, Logan Daniel Ellis (great grandson of Mable Mull) Chaz Erwin (grandson of Bob & Sis Erwin), Evi Gomez (Friend of Debbie Mitchell), Mike Huggins (Brother-in-Law of Sharon Clary), Priscilla Jaynes, Mike Just (Friend of John Greene), Kat Jones (Friend of the Hinson Family), Caitlyn McKenzie (Granddaughter of Cackie Connelly), James R. Norman (grandson of John & Jane Greene), Jan Robarge (Friend of Ron & Annelle Mulwee), Chloe Scott (Friend of Morgan Steinert), Scott Taylor (brother of Larry Taylor), Clara Turner (sister of Betty Smith), Sue Villines (friend of Janet Jehnzen), Eddie Ward, Dean Williams (brother-in-law of Debbie Mitchell), Pete Willis (friend of Brownie Rochefort & Ronny & Kay Childres), Malee Lor Yang (friend of Bill & Joyce Kendall), Military personnel.

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY

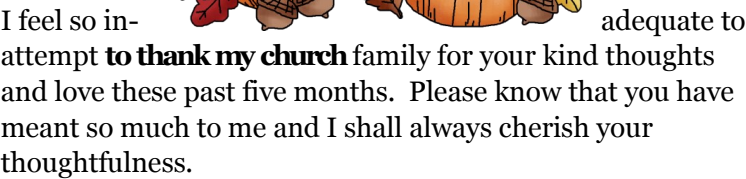
is extended to the family and friends of
Lisa Pruitt Thompson
in her passing on Wednesday, October 28, 2015.

In 1968, The Methodist Church of the United States joined with the Evangelical United Brethren Church to form the United Methodist Church. The Evangelical United Brethren Church traced its roots back to the German speaking Methodists in the early days of our nation's history. The creation of the United Methodist Church was then a restoration of the English and German speaking traditions of the American Methodist Church.

Archives/History Committee

AN INFANT/CHILD CPR CLASS will be held on **NOVEMBER 15** at 12:30 pm. All children/youth workers are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be provided.

Our Night of Light is fast approaching! This annual event celebrates the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ with the downtown community. We raise money for church and local missions while promoting physical activity. This year we're supporting, The Meeting Place Mission for the homeless, a Family Relief Fund for needy families, and our church ministries. We need your input and involvement to make this the best year yet! Please become a sponsor or donate a door prize. Volunteers are needed for: route cheerleaders, guides and traffic support, manning water stations, assisting with child activities, greeting and support indoors and out, refreshments, stuffing goodie bags, etc! Hey, just tell us how you can help! Sign up on line (Signupgenius), talk with a team member, or call the office. Watch the bulletin for weekly updates and to thank participating sponsors! Remember this quote from Pastor John, *"The great night of light is Christmas!"*



Joyce Keels

Rain, rain, go away, Keepers wanted to travel and play. Due to the weather that did not happen. Maybe in 2016 we can go to Louisa's Rock House Restaurant. The group will not meet in November because our meeting time falls on the Tuesday of Thanksgiving week. The following week on December 1st we will have our December Christmas meeting and lunch in the Ervin Room at Grace Ridge. Plans for special Christmas entertainment that everyone will enjoy are under way. Mark your calendars and plan to come.

On Tuesday, November 17, at 10:00, the Morganton Friendly Tuesday Group will be meeting in our fellowship hall for a program and lunch. Their program will be all about Thanksgiving. Anyone from our church is invited to come and join the group on that day.

Charlotte's Knitters are busy making prayer squares for the Night of Light Race. They will be meeting on November 5th and 19th at 10:00. The prayers squares for this year are being sewn. Anyone who enjoys sewing is invited to come and help.

Besides learning the book of Genesis in Sunday School, they have learned how the church needs money to stay open. They are collecting change through Thanksgiving to give to the Capital Campaign, so if you can help them please save yours for them! There are two special events coming up for the kids-on Wednesday, November 18 after supper they will be attending an art session at Me, You and Some Glue. They will make a Christmas gift as well as participating in some fun activities. On December 6 Stacy Ripley has organized a Polar Express Adventure from 4:00-7:00. This is very exciting, there will be lots of activities, supper, and a trolley ride! Space is limited, so if your child would like to attend please contact me as soon as possible. We don't want anyone left behind!

Wishing you all the Happiest Thanksgiving ever!

Sharon 828-413-4829

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Stepping In the Stream

Proverbs 3: 5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do. And he will direct your paths.

Stepping in the Stream – learning to relate to God's Will is an excellent guide for our individual and corporate faith journey to lead us into the stream of God's Will. Beth Crissman the author writes "We want to know the purpose for our life and ministry. To make sure we grasp that purpose, God paints a picture to fulfill the Promise where the needs of our neighbors are met through our unique ability to respond." Our Church Council is using this book as a guide as Pastor Charlotte has led us in two sessions of our Church Council recently. Our leadership is devoted to being a church that reaches out to our community with the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

Our congregation is devoted as well to being a transforming agent of God's love to our community. Whether it is our Youth going on the ASP summer mission trip, our summer music camp and Vacation Bible School, or our active Missions Team taking backpacks to Forest Hill School, this church family continues to grow in compassion and outreach to those in need with the love of Jesus Christ.

I am particularly proud of our congregation's response to the loss of our HVAC for our sanctuary and educational building this summer. Our people have responded in a magnificent fashion to holding a combined Stewardship & Capital Campaign this fall. On Wednesday October 14, we had over 200 people come and hear our children sing and lay people share what this church means to them. As of October 19 we had received the following commitments: (letters of intent)

62 Letters of intent for our **budget** for a total of **\$238,260 – average of \$3,824**

54 Letters of intent for our **capital** for a total of **\$442,940 – average of \$8,357.36**

This is a great start to fund our 2016 ministry budget and our three year capital funds campaign. We have extended the invitation for all members of our church family to participate. I am especially glad that our congregation is addressing the retirement of our debt of over \$300,000 that we have carried for over 20 years. It is my dream that in 3-5 years this debt, plus our HVAC debt will be completely retired.

Still one of the greatest needs of our congregation is not only to step into the stream of God's Will in reaching out to our neighbors in the community and funding the renovation of our facilities but also to return to the Lord in the priority of worship. As I prayed over many names (families) during our recent prayer vigil, I simply prayed that God would revive their souls and give them a hunger to be active in worship and in the life of our church family. Simply returning to the priority of worshipping the Lord on Sunday with the body of Christ will be a top priority during Lent of 2016. It is the heartbeat of any church's life and vitality.

I am very blessed to serve as the Senior Pastor of this great congregation, to serve with such a committed and talented staff, and dedicated lay leadership. I am very optimistic that our Lord has great plans for using our church in the future as we step in the stream of His will.

Grace and peace,

John Fowler – Senior Pastor FUMC Morganton



This time of the year brings intentional thoughts of gratitude, as we enter into the season of Thanksgiving. Each of us has much for which to be grateful. In times of plenty or in times of want, God is good. Our gratitude is not dependent upon what we have or what we do not have. For, as the apostle Paul states in Philippians Chapter 4, "I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

For November 2015, these are the things at FUMC for which I am grateful:

Stewardship/Capital Campaign Prayer Vigil held on Saturday, October 17 in our Chapel and in the Chapel at Grace Ridge. Names lifted in prayer included 647 members and friends of the church. Hosted by Maxine Cutting at Grace Ridge, and Mary Marcia Salsbury and Cheri Teague at FUMC, 45 people came to pray during the vigil.

From October 4-18 many persons observed an intentional time of prayer for our Stewardship/Capital Campaign every day at 12 noon.

Several Sunday school classes were able to use the Bible study materials provided by the Capital Campaign. Many opportunities for spiritual formation and discipleship, including Bible studies on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Numerous Missional outreach and evangelism opportunities, including our backpack ministry and partnership with Forest Hill Elementary School, Prison Ministry, Burke United Christian Ministries, and plans for our annual Night of Light Race.

Report of the MissionInsite community demographic study, led by Donnie Carter.

Report of the Elisha Team community needs study, led by Debbie Mitchell, with Team members Jill Simpson, Pam Andrews, and Mary Marcia Salsbury.

Persons who serve as mentors to our children and youth, setting an example of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The way this congregation deeply cares for one another, and the community with which we are in ministry. The gift of you, and how God is blessing FUMC in ways both seen and unseen.

Reminder: Advent Bible Study on Thursday Mornings in December

Advent study, "Sent" by Jorge Acevedo is a 5-week DVD-based Advent journey along with young adults Jacob Armstrong, Rachel Billups, Justin LaRosa, and Lanecia Rouse. God sent Christ into the world as our Savior. That's what Christmas is all about. In turn, Christ sends us into the world. But do we really understand how, where, and why we are sent? This study challenges us through story, art, and Bible study to discover what it means to be Christ's hands, feet, head, and heart. Robert Teague is joining me as co-teacher. Books are now available. Class meets on Thursday mornings (December 3, 10, 17) from 10:00-12 noon. We will cover two chapters each week, thus the extended time required.

Bible Studies are always open to the community, so feel free to invite your friends to join us. For more details or to register, please contact Charlotte Brendel at cbrendel@wnccumc.net or call 437-0921 extension 14.

Our GOAL: Move from doing a lot of "good things" to doing the "God things" we are uniquely called to do. Find the intersection of the needs of our neighbors and our unique ability to respond.

